

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A material for cartilage-like material substitution, comprising a fibre-reinforced polymerized hydrogel, wherein said polymerized hydrogel contains 10-70% (m/m) swellable fibres (based on the dry matter), wherein the length of the fibres is at least a millimeter, and wherein 1-5% (m/m) (based on the dry matter) of a substance that contains ionized groups has been added to said polymerized hydrogel and, wherein said swellable fibres have sucked up at least one monomer solution prior to polymerization of the hydrogel.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The material for cartilage-like material substitution according to claim 8, wherein said ~~hydrogel comprises~~ monomer solution is a hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA) polymer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The material for cartilage-like material substitution according to claim 8, wherein said substance containing ionized groups comprises methacrylic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The material for cartilage-like material substitution according to claim 10, comprising 1-5% (m/m) methacrylate.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The material for cartilage-like material substitution according to claim 8, wherein said swellable fibres comprise fibres saturated in a liquid.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The material for cartilage-like material substitution according to claim 8, wherein said swellable fibres comprise ~~fibres~~ a polyurethane material.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A prosthesis fabricated of the material for cartilage-like material substitution of claim 8.

Claim 15 (New): A material for cartilage-like material substitution, comprising a fibre-reinforced polymerized hydrogel, wherein said polymerized hydrogel contains 10-70% (m/m) swellable fibres (based on the dry matter), wherein the length of the fibres is at least a millimeter, and wherein 1-5% (m/m) (based on the dry matter) of a substance that contains ionized groups has been added to said polymerized hydrogel and, wherein said swellable fibres comprise at least one monomer solution.